

APUSH

Standard Debate Form

We will split into two teams, one defending (pro) and one refuting (con) the statement assigned.

You may break up responsibilities in whatever way your group chooses.

We will follow a standard debate format:

General Rules:

1. 4 minutes per student in round one and 3 minutes per student in round two.
2. No interference with the speaker!
3. The speaker may use the podium.
4. 3 rounds per debate.
5. no information is presented in Round 3
6. 2-3 minute conference between rounds.

Round 1 – Order of Presentation: Pro, Con, Pro, Con, Pro, Con

Person #1 for each side:

1. Restate question.
2. Explain why it is important.
3. General reasons for position.
4. Present any emotional reading or quote.
5. Passion appeal.

Person #2 for each side:

1. Present data, case studies.
2. Specific support for your arguments.
3. Intellectual appeal.

Person #3 for each side:

(See Person #2 above)

Break – Debate teams should study notes and plan attack of the opposing side.

Round 2 – Order of Presentation: Con, Pro, Con, Pro

Person #1 for each side:

1. Attack and reiterate.
2. Appeal should be both passionate and intellectual.

Person #2 for each side:

(See Person #1)

Break – 2 minutes to organize summation.

Closing Statements – 2 minutes each affirmative and negative

1. Summarize your position and evidence.
2. Take the moral high ground.

Task to Accomplish

Affirmative:

- Prove the Point – Burden of Proof is with you
- Demonstrate why the resolution has to be true

Negative:

- Clash with the statement
- Demonstrate the fallacies of the resolution
- All you have to do is establish reasonable doubt

Cross Examination:

- Only ask questions which must be answered with a “yes”
- Lay a foundation which is supported in your general argument
- Show no mercy but do not come off rudely

All:

- Remember the weight of the outcome
- Dress appropriately
- Hand in an annotated bibliography
- Clearly articulate a main idea – keep your message focused

Remember:

use language appropriate to the task

use humor, irony, hypothetical's, rhetorical questions, sarcasm, hyperbole, analogy and other rhetorical devices when appropriate

support your arguments with factual material and quotes whenever possible

do not allow your opponent to establish the grounds for debate

do not repeat previous arguments unless you can support them in a novel way or

elaborate upon them

coordinate your team so as to use each member most effectively

be gracious to your opponents

watch the clock

consider your audience

you are graded by team, so be sure everyone participates